

Attending (13+1):

Ben Goldberg, Stefano Gogioso, Christian Ku, Stefano Salvatore, Martin Sedlak (left at the beginning), Andrew Walls, Davide Cavaliere, Lara Diaz de Grenu, Nelly Olova, Lorenz Fenk, Günel Mehdiyeva, Eugenio Cocchi, Amy Thomas, Miranda Abild.

Chair: Ben Goldberg

Secretary: Stefano Gogioso

Refurbishment of the MCR club room

Ben reports having talked to the College President: bar is going to change next summer, repainting and modification of windows are already in plan, as part of a wider project of refurbishment of the west wing. The College President asked for the MCR to produce a new design proposal.

The possibility of a mezzanine is put forward by Stefano S and discussed, a two-floor structure with dance floor downstairs and pool/soccer tables upstairs is proposed by Christian. Doubts about the safety of spiral staircases and the amount of space required by linear stairs are raised by Stefano G. Doubts about the real necessity of more space are raised by Davide, who argues that a smaller room brings the advantage of looking fuller and more alive even with our average, and relatively small, student attendance to nights in the bar; he further highlights the necessity of a bigger MCR cupboard.

A refurbishment sub-committee is formed: Ben, Stefano S, Lara, Günel, and Amy. The sub-committee is to bring refurbishment proposals to the next MCR meeting for the full committee to discuss.

Daytime coffee bar

The project of introducing a coffee bar is a child of Stefano S, who has first proposed we open the bar a handful of hours one or two days a week and have a paid student serve good quality coffee, likely from a high-end machine (a quote is put forward around 1000£ for the machine itself).

Stefano S reports that the Bursar is concerned about people asking for alcohol, the serving of which our license doesn't cover during daytime; furthermore the Bursar is not convinced of this project and will ask for the MCR to cover the costs themselves if they want to proceed with it.

A trial period renting a machine is proposed and discussed, as is the possibility of locking the alcohol during the day and give students free access to the remaining sections of the bar to help themselves to coffee. The possibility is also discussed of using the octagon bar, which is agreed to be the best option (conditional to college agreeing to its use). The possibility of introducing a self-service system is considered and quickly gains momentum in the discussion.

Stefano S reports machine we currently have is broken, and that the engineer is not willing to fix it. Good quality coffee requires a good new coffee machine, the type of which depends on the use we want to make of it: self-service use suggests capsule machines, served bar allows for a bigger, high-end machine.

The option of using Nespresso-type machines for self-service is discussed: issues are presented with collecting money for the capsules and Miranda proposes a honesty system. Issues are raised, mostly by Davide and Stefano G, with the honesty system, and Stefano G

proposes a 2 week trial to sample the probability distribution for payments (which would then allow to set the price for capsules appropriately).

In order to sort out the type of machine/service and the timing two votes are indicted.

Vote 1: Type of machine/service

Options:

- 1) served at the octagon bar, 2000£ professional machine: paid to the bartender
- 2) self service at the octagon bar, capsule machine (Nespresso/other brand), honesty system
- 3) self service at the octagon bar, capsule machine (Nespresso/other brand), capsule distributing machine
- 4) self service at the octagon bar, filter machine, honesty system

Results:

- 1) 0 voters
 - 2) 10 voters
 - 3) 3 voters
 - 4) 0 voters
- Abstained: 0 voters

Conclusion: 2 week trial period with capsule machine and honesty system, to start at a date do be set later. Stefano S too look for machines.

A discussion opens about times. Stefano S argues that the original idea saw the coffee bar as a social experience, and thus it would be best to have it only for short windows of time during the week. His positions are seconded by Andrew.

Günel argues that a lot of students, especially in exam term, have a frequent need for coffee, and have to go through the hassle of walking to Costa every time.

Furthermore Günel highlights how people crunching in the library might not feel too comfortable socializing when deadlines are looming. Her positions are seconded by Stefano G. It is then generally agreed that the coffee service should be offered on a daily basis, and the following vote is held.

Vote 2: time spans

Options:

- 1) all-day
- 2) 3 hrs. a day

Results:

- 1) 7 voters
 - 2) 4 voters
- Abstained: 2 voters

Stefano G points out that it would be easy to have the porter open the coffee area in the mornings and close it at night along with the seminar rooms. This option is agreed upon.

Senior Treasurers account

The following proposals are put forward:

- 1) Gowns for graduations
- 2) DVDs
- 3) Extended bar license
- 4) Wii or other gaming system
- 5) Deck chairs

The proposal of pushing on college to buy a boat is put forward and defended, but there is no general consensus on what position to take on this matter.

The proposal of creating a gym in college is put forward and discussed, as Fenner's is closing soon: Lara suggests caution on this matter as no information is at present available regarding what facilities will open in its place.

Other business

Davide points out it's getting cold and heating has not yet been turned on. Ben to talk to college officials about this.

The point of frequent brunch/dinner cancellation is brought up: it is generally agreed that the rate of cancellation should be drastically reduced, especially in easter term. Andrew proposes that in case of cancellation college is to offer an alternative day (e.g. brunch on Sunday when cancelled on Saturday, dinnere on weekend when cancelled during week). Ben and Stefano S to bring these points to House committee.

It is pointed out that keys of the MCR rooms are not easily reachable: copies are proposed.

It is proposed to get condoms from CUSU and provide them for free. Ben to ask David James to allow use of the condom machine.

It is proposed that the MCR makes a statement about the conflict, regarding gown choice for graduation, between the university regulations and the providers of gowns in Cambridge. Stefano G to prepare a letter to Ede&Ravenscroft (and Ryder&Amies) to request their website(s) guidelines to be fixed.

Stefano G proposes college provides the same sort of lunchtime refreshment for General Admission as it does with the other graduations: families often travel from far for these events and they expect some sort of light lunch, irrespective of what stated on the official letters (which, for General Admission, indeed clearly state that lunch arrangements should be made by the individual graduands for their families). Brunch should not be assumed to be a valid substitute in this instance, as it requires students to prepare in advance by putting money on their cards, cards that will likely never be used again after that day.

Stefano G raises, in his role as May Ball Vice-president, the issue of May Ball theme decision in the current situation, where the May Ball President has been elected during the summer: traditionally the decision involves the MCR committee and coincides with the election of the May Ball President. It is agreed that the theme will be decided by the May Ball committee independently of the MCR committee.

A sub-committee is instituted to extend and complete the MCR constitution, without any change to the existing parts. The committee will consist of: Ben and Stefano G, with the externa co-operation of John Kattirtzi and Ed Greenwood, the last two MCR presidents. Davide and Günel put on record their opposal to extending the constitution.

Finally this meeting institutes the full new committee, with in particular:

- Ben Golberg as President
- Stefano Gogioso as Secretary
- Christian Ku as Treasurer
- Stefano Salvatore as Vice-president